

John Randolph to Andrew Jackson, September 29, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN RANDOLPH TO JACKSON.

London, September 29, 1830.

My dear Sir, The first law of man's nature, Self Preservation, has compelled me to anticipate your kind indulgence and to leave St. Petersburg much sooner and more abruptly than I had intended. I left that Capital on Sunday the 7/19 Instant and landed at the Custom House wharf this morning at 8, via Hamburg. Nothing could have surpassed the affability and cordiality of my reception by their Imperial Majesties of all the Russias, and by the minister Prince Lieven. His Highness has won upon my esteem and his kindness has excited my regard.

This is the last day that I can write by the Packet, which leaves Liverpool on the 1st of next month (the day after tomorrow.) I shall therefore reserve my further communication for the packet of the next week (the 8th.) The following extract from a Memo: of Mr Clay will suffice to show that (health out of the question) I have not compromised any interest of our Country, or acted contrary to your instructions or wishes, in leaving that deleterious and deadly climate (for such it is in the summer and autumnal months) so soon. . . .¹

¹ The matter omitted is an account of Mr. Clay's call on Prince Lieven, to ask for Randolph's passports. Clay remained in charge of the legation as secretary of legation. Randolph had been twenty-nine days in St. Petersburg.

I trust my dear, Sir, that you will excuse this hurried letter written in pain and sickness. By the next packet ship you shall hear more fully. I purpose going to the continent to try

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and renovate my shattered system. If the season were a fortnight earlier I would embark at once for the U. S. As it is I shall if it pleases God return to St. Petersburg (with your approbation) in the Spring and to the U. S. in September next, if not sooner.

I am my dear Sir with the highest esteem and regard, your most faithful servant